

*The Root
Of
The Problem*

Part V

2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people....*

14 *IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME*

will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,

THEN

I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, and WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.

Week One, We Observed...

Principle #1

*We Will Not See Results Until **The Right People Take Responsibility***

Principle #2

*We Will Not See Results Until **We Follow The Prescription***

Principle #3

*Expect to See Results Because **The Promise Will Be Fulfilled***

Week Two, We Observed

*Are We **IDENTIFYING** As Christians
Without Any **IMPACT**?*

Week Three We Observed...

*The Lack Of Humility, Hinders Our Prayers
You will never come **BOLDLY FOR HELP**,
If **YOU FEEL** you can handle it **ON YOUR OWN**...
It all begins with **HUMILITY***

Last Week

*When We Pray... We Tell God
I Need You
I Trust You
I Am Depending On You*

What's Next?

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray
AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS,

The Next Step After **HUMILITY AND PRAYER**

Is To Seek God's Face

What Does That Mean...

To Seek God's Face Is To **DESIRE** to be in **HIS PRESENCE**,
not necessarily to receive anything but just **TO BE WITH HIM**.

Many People **DESIRE GOD'S PRESENTS...**

Therefore They **SEEK GOD'S HAND...** Instead of **SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

The Term "**DESIRE**" Means to **YEARN FOR** or **TO LONG AFTER....**or **TO DELIGHT**

Many People Do Not Have **A Wholehearted Desire** To Seek His Face

Seeking God's Face Begins With A Desire... Leads To A New Direction

Deuteronomy 4:29-31 (NKJV)

29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him **IF YOU SEEK HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.** 30 When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, **WHEN YOU TURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD AND OBEY HIS VOICE** 31 He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NKJV)

13 And **YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME,** **WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.** 14 **I WILL BE FOUND BY YOU,** says the LORD, and **I WILL BRING YOU BACK FROM YOUR CAPTIVITY;**

Proverbs 8:17 (NKJV)

17 I love those who love me, And those who **SEEK ME DILIGENTLY WILL FIND ME.**

Psalms 105:4 (NIV)

4 Look to the LORD and his strength; **SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS.**

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **HE IS A REWARDER** of **THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**

The Challenge Of Distractions In Our Seeking

Many people are **SEEKING TO SATISFY THE WRONG DESIRES**
Sinful lust is an **OVERPOWERING DESIRE** for that which God has forbidden.

1 John 2:15-16 (ESV)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world— **the desires of the flesh** and the **desires of the eyes** and **pride in possessions**—is not from the Father but is from the world.

These **DESIRES** Tend To **DETOUR** Us As **WE SEEK HIM...**
So instead of **SEEKING HIM... WE SEEK THEM... {The Desires}**
Your **SIGHTS ARE SET ON IT!!!**

Matthew 6:31-33 (NKJV)

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 **For after all these things the Gentiles SEEK.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 **BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,** and all **THESE THINGS** shall be added to you.

SEEKING GOD WILL GUARANTEE GOOD THINGS

Psalm 34:10 (NKJV)

10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But **THOSE WHO SEEK THE LORD** shall not lack **any good thing.**

Seek His Hand Or His Face

MISPLACED DESIRES Can Cause Us To **ONLY SEEK GOD'S HAND**

Seeking God's face is seeking to **KNOW HIM** more intimately.. It is having **conversation with Him**,
meditating on His Word, and **listening for His direction and love**.

It goes beyond asking for **HIS HELP** (**SEEKING HIS HAND**)

When you look for **SOMEONE'S HELP** you are seeking for someone's **ASSISTANCE**.

You need their **SERVICE**. You want that person to **DO SOMETHING FOR YOU**
so that you can **RECTIFY A PROBLEM** or **GET OUT OF A MESS**.

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

11 You make known to me the path of life; **IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY;**
AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE.

I Need Your Provisions

I Need Your Protection

I Need Your Power

I Need Your Partnership

NOT YOUR PRESENCE

Illustration: Daddy... Can I Have The Car Tonight... And Some Gas Money... Wear Your Jordan's

Moses Understood The Power Of God's Presence

Psalm 103:7 (NKJV)

7 He made known **HIS WAYS TO MOSES**, **HIS ACTS TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**.

The children of Israel **PERISHED** in the wilderness because they only **KNEW THE MIRACLES HE PERFORMED**
NOT THE PERSON WHO DELIVERED THEM

Exodus 33:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' 2 And **I will send My Angel before you**, and **I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite**. 3 **Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey;**
FOR I WILL NOT GO UP IN YOUR MIDST, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

Exodus 33:11 (NKJV)

11 So the LORD spoke to Moses **FACE TO FACE**, as a man speaks to his friend....

Exodus 33:15 (NKJV)

15 Then he said to Him, "**IF YOUR PRESENCE DOES NOT GO WITH US**, do not bring us up from here.

If We don't have **HIS PRESENCE**... What good are the blessings...

Turn From Your Wicked Ways

WICKEDNESS is essentially departing from, turning away from, and violating, **THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHT AND WRONG.**

Wicked Ways ~ Ways that Ignore God's Instructions

When I **SEEK GOD'S FACE...** I TURN IN A NEW DIRECTION

In the New Testament the Greek word for repentance, **metanoia** is a military term and it means "**ABOUT FACE**". It means if you are going **ONE DIRECTION** and the commander says **ABOUT FACE** you turn and you go **COMPLETELY** in a **DIFFERENT DIRECTION**. That's what it means to turn.

Turning **TO WICKED WAYS** leads us to **TURN AWAY FROM GOD.**

Turning **TO GOD** means **TURNING AWAY FROM WICKED WAYS.**

Can't go in **BOTH DIRECTIONS** at once!

Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **Adam and his wife hid themselves** **FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD....**

SIN Will Not Allow You To Have **INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP** With God

1 John 1:6 ~ If we say we have **fellowship with him** while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)

2 But **YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED YOU FROM YOUR GOD;**
And **YOUR SINS HAVE HIDDEN HIS FACE FROM YOU,** So that He will not hear.

Turn From Your Wicked Ways

God's Desire Is For Us To **TURN BACK TO HIM**

Hosea 14:1 (NKJV)

1 O Israel, **Return to the LORD** your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity...

Zechariah 1:3 (NKJV)

3 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**Return to Me,**" says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts.

Nehemiah 1:9 (NKJV)

9 but if you **Return to Me**, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

Jeremiah 24:7 (NKJV)

7 Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall **Return to Me** with their whole heart.

Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV)

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him **Return to the LORD**, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Malachi 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. **Return to Me**, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

Turn From Your Wicked Ways

God **Could Have Destroyed** His People ~ But **Thank God For His Mercy**

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being **PATIENT** for your sake. He does not **DESIRE** anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone **TO REPENT**.

Although 2 Chronicles 7:14 is an **Old Testament Passage**
It Is A **New Testament Principle**

James 4:7-8, 10 (NKJV)

7 **THEREFORE SUBMIT TO GOD**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 **DRAW NEAR TO GOD** and He will draw near to you. **CLEANSE YOUR HANDS**, you sinners;
and **PURIFY YOUR HEARTS**, you double-minded. 10 **HUMBLE YOURSELVES** in the sight of the
Lord, and He will lift you up.

The Prescription For God's Results

Humility ~ Prayer ~ Seek God ~ Turn From Wicked Ways

In Conclusion...

We Must Seek God's Face and Not Just God's Hand

Seeking God Begins With A Wholehearted Desire

The World Has Distractions That Tend To Detour Us From Seeking God

As I Turn Toward God's Face... I Turn Away From My Wicked Ways

14 IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME

will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,

THEN

I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, and WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.